

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



[The Editor is not responsible for opinions expressed in this Department.]

May 12th, 1902.

MISS PALMER.

One Month ago I wrote an article to the A. J. for publication—shortly after I received a letter from you stating the article had been Condensed some—lack of space Necessitated it, the article has never been published—kindly return the Manuscript to me for which I enclose a stamp—the meeting in Albany a short time ago served to Convince me that the JOURNAL is Controlled by a body of Narrow minded women that dare not publish the Opinion of its subscribers.

Respectfully

J. CURR.

[Will this lady kindly send her address to the Editor, who will take pleasure in returning the manuscript.]

FOND DU LAC, WIS., May 7.

DEAR EDITOR: Will you kindly publish in your JOURNAL answers to the following questions: What is the modern treatment of small-pox? What methods are used to prevent scarring? Is there any treatment that will hasten the disappearance of the red spots? In caring for a case of small-pox, what especial symptoms must the nurse observe?

I am a subscriber to THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING, and am *delighted* with the many helpful things it contains.

E. V.

[Will some of our readers who have nursed small-pox cases reply to these questions?—ED.]

DEAR EDITOR: Many people imagine because a nurse receives twenty-five dollars a week as remuneration for her services she should amass a fortune, but do not stop to consider the necessary outlay. To succeed in her profession a nurse must live well,—that is to say, within the bounds of propriety. As to the average expenditure for clothing, it is impossible to make an estimate, as tastes differ. I believe that nurses should dress *plainly*, but *well*. The buying of cheap material is not economy.

Few nurses are employed more than two-thirds of the year, and during the remaining third expenses must be met just the same, so there is considerable outlay without any income. I have found among friends in the profession that private nurses invariably have some burden to share, family or otherwise, and find plenty of use for all they can spare from their earnings. I have done private nursing in several small Western towns as well as large cities, and find the average amount after expenses are paid is about equal. For instance, in one town private nurses receive fifteen dollars a week and find suitable rooms and board for three and a half or four dollars. In large cities, where the salary is twenty-five dollars, the same expenses amount to six and a half or seven dollars. Whatever the salary and the expenditure, I consider it the duty of each nurse to lay by a certain amount of her income for future use. Have a definite object in view. It seems to me from my personal experience that an

average of five dollars a week can be easily managed. At best a nurse's active career is short, and surely during *that* active period we should look forward to and prepare for "the rainy day."

D. M. A.

DEAR EDITOR: My New-Yorkish feelings have been somewhat wounded by your recent editorial on our conditions here, and I am moved to advocate our cause for a moment. You forget our size when you talk about us. One general club or county society is all very well in nice little towns like Boston, Philadelphia, and Rochester, but you will find they could never be a success in Chicago or New York. They would be lost. You will find that only a small proportion (comparatively) of the medical profession here belong to the County Society, and one general nursing society could simply never cover the ground. If it were formed, the nurses who would join it would be those already interested in organization and who already belong to their *alumnæ* or a club, who would join it to "help along." I do not quite see the point of the same nurses organizing *twice over* in local groups in the same place. In New York those of us who talk over these things hope some day (not so far off, either) to have an *affiliation* of all the groups in Greater New York. This would not be a new and competing society, but a definite means of union and intercourse for all our nurses' associations in New York and Brooklyn, Staten Island, and Harlem. It would leave all the individual groups as strong as they are now, whereas a large general society would tend rather to weaken them without ever being able to take the place they now hold with the nurses. We in New York want to encourage *all* nurses to enter *some* group which will be to them what the family is to the individual. We encourage all we can to enter the Metropolitan Club. We want our graduates to join their *alumnæ*. And, for all and every nurse, both from schools here and elsewhere, who will enter, there has been formed lately a general society for Manhattan and Bronx, the aim of which is to gather in those who are now unorganized. Then later we hope to gather all these "family" groups into an affiliation, which will be, for social and professional purposes, the equivalent of the County Society, and to my mind better, for there will not be the duplication of fees and membership that now exists when a nurse joins both *alumnæ* and County Society. We may, in the future, get to the point of sending all our State Society delegates through this affiliation, but this is only a conjecture. And I will whisper to you that steps are being taken for a clubhouse or private hotel for nurses which shall be general in its character.

I will also hint to you that we are offered a tempting plan for next winter's lectures from the Berkeley Lyceum, where the League for Political Education meets. I will not tell you any more about that now, except that it will give us many club advantages, and that we are hoping to get all nurses in the town interested.

Yours sincerely,

A RESIDENT OF NEW YORK.

DEAR EDITOR: If not too late, may I say a word about life insurance? In the December number of the magazine "A Graduated Nurse," in replying to Miss Knight's article in the October number, says, "A man had deposited fifty dollars and forty-seven cents a year for twenty years in a New York life insurance company, and at the end of the twenty years the company offered him in cash fifteen hundred and forty-eight dollars and thirty-five cents, which is a return of all money deposited with 37.8 per cent. compound interest." Now, I would like to